

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

DHA-02 SCCT-01 /076 W

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R 101845Z MAY 76

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 849

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OPORTO 0190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SREF, PO, AO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A. LISBON 3058

B. LISBON 2996

1. POLICE CONFRONTATION WITH RETURNEES: FIRST OPEN CONFRONTATION IN OPORTO BETWEEN POLICE AND ANGOLAN RETURNEES OCCURRED AFTER MIDNIGHT MAY 8 WHEN RIOT SQUAD EVICTED GROUP OF RETURNEES WHO HAD OCCUPIED DOWNTOWN RELIEF SERVICE (IARN) OFFICE. POLICE FIRED SHOTS IN THE AIR AND USED TEAR GAS TO CLEAR THE OFFICE. PRESS REPORT AT LEAST FIVE INJURIES. RETURNEES HAD BEEN PICKETING ALL THREE OPORTO IARN OFFICES AND HARASSING IARN OFFICIALS SINCE FOOD SUBSIDY CUT (REFTEL B) ONLY LIFTED LID ON PANDORA'S BOX OF PROBLEMS. SEPARATE GROUP OF RETURNEES VISITED CONSULATE MAY 6 CLAIMING THEY HAD BEEN SQUEEZING IN WITH RELATIVES FOR LAST SIX MONTHS IN RURAL AREA WITHOUT ANY ASSISTANCE. THEY PRESENTED PETITION ACCUSING HOTEL ACCOMODATED RETURNEES AS GETTING LIONS SHARE OF GOVERNMENT HELP. RETURNEES CONTINUE MAY 10 TO MILL AROUND IARN OFFICES IN UGLY MOOD.

2. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY OF GEN. EANES: DURING MAY 7 VISIT TO OPORTO, GEN. EANES MET WITH NORTHERN MILITARY COMMANDERS (REFTEL
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A PARA 2) FOR FOUR HOUR DISCUSSION INCLUDING QUESTION AND ANSWER

PERIOD. THRUST OF APPEARANCE APPARENTLY CONCERNED EANES' CANDIDACY AND INTRODUCTION OF EXPECTED MILITARY SUCCESSOR BG. ROCHA VIEIRA, WHO IS SAID TO BE RELATIVELY UNKNOWN AMONG NORTHERN MILITARY CIRCLES. IN AIRPORT REMARKS TO JOURNALISTS, NORTHERN MILITARY COMMANDER BG. VELOSO ANNOUNCED, "I'M OUT OF THE RUNNING".

3. PPD ACTIVITIES AND SA CARNEIRO'S NEW LOOK: SECOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF PPD MAY 8 WAS WELL ATTENDED BY THOUSANDS OF PARTY FAITHFUL IN OPORTO SUBURB PARK FESTIVAL. RALLY DEMONSTRATES THAT WHILE SOME LOCAL PARTY FIGURES ARE WORRIED ABOUT PPD'S FUTURE, CONSIDERABLE RANK AND FILE REMAIN COMMITTED TO PARTY AND SA CARNEIRO. PPD SEC GEN MEANWHILE DISPLAYED NEW LINE OF FLEXIBILITY. IN ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH LOCAL DAILY JOURNAL DE NOTICIAS MAY 8, SA CARNEIRO STATED HE WOULD CONSIDER LEAVING POSITION OF PPD SEC GEN IF IT WOULD BE NECESSARY IN FORMING COALITION WITH ANOTHER PARTY (READ PS). DURING MAY 9 PARTY MEETING, SA CARNEIRO SAID HE WOULD NOT BLOCK FORMATION OF MINORITY GOVERNMENT BY SOCIALISTS AND SUGGESTED PPD STATUTES GOVERNING PARTY ELECTIONS MIGHT BE REVISED. THIS LAST MENTIONED POINT IS SOMETHING PPD DISSIDENTS URGED BEFORE BOLTING THE PARTY. SA CARNEIRO'S NEW LOOK APPARENTLY SATISFIED PARTY MEETING PARTICIPANTS WHO UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED HIM PARLIAMENTARY LEADER ALONG WITH VICE LEADERS BARBOSA DE MELO, FIGUEIREDO DINIS AND FERREIRA JUNIOR.

4. BOMBING VIOLENCE: FIRST BOMBINGS IN OPORTO SINCE ELECTIONS OCCURRED WITH SMALL BLAST BREAKING WINDOWS OF PCP SUBURB OFFICE BEFORE DAWN MAY 8. A SECOND SMALL EXPLOSION IN SAME SUBURB TOOK PLACE MAY 9 IN FRONT OF LARGE ELECTRICAL MACHINE COMPANY (EFACEC).
PENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICE FORCES, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OPORTO00190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760180-0360
From: OPORTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760572/aaaacsj.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LISBON 3058
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SREF, PORS, PO, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006